



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Making Progress in Africa 2005



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**S**ub-Saharan Africa's prospects for a better future continue to improve as many countries in the region reap the benefits of economic policy changes, improved governance, and investments in key social sectors undertaken during the past decade. With the expanding global economy, the continued growth of responsible and representative governments, and the recovery from several lengthy conflicts, much of the African continent is poised to see more robust economic growth and an improvement in living standards. Yet Africa continues to face enormous development challenges and it is the only region of the world that has become poorer in the last generation, with half of its 700 million people living on less than \$1 per day.

In June 2005, President Bush announced that the United States would double assistance to Africa by 2010. Official development assistance to Africa from the United States in 2004 was about \$4.3 billion, and the Bush Administration is committed to increasing that amount to \$8.6 billion by 2010.

Much of the United States' assistance to Africa flows through USAID, including emergency humanitarian aid, country and regional-level programs, and several of President Bush's special initiatives including the Africa Education Initiative (AEI), the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), the African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI), and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). The President announced this summer that the United States would spend at least \$1.2 billion over the next five years to reduce by half the deaths from malaria in 15 African countries, and provide an additional \$400 million for the immediate learning needs of African children, especially for girls. In addition, USAID is a partner in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a five-year global HIV/AIDS strategy for the treatment, care, and prevention of HIV worldwide, with a special focus on 15 countries, 12 of which are in Africa.

In fiscal year 2006, USAID will begin a shift to reorient its programming in sub-Saharan Africa by allocating its resources more strategically and effectively, targeted toward countries

where they will have the greatest impact. The strategies for assistance to individual countries will differ depending both on the strength of institutions and on the host government's proven track record in furthering economic growth and development of democratic institutions. Except where there are overriding strategic or humanitarian interests, the highest priority for funding will go to countries classified as good-performing "transformational development" countries in order to help them reach a higher level of development .

At the same time, USAID assistance will continue to address special concerns of interest to the United States, including biodiversity and communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS. In the more fragile countries where governments are currently unable to provide basic services, governance, and security to large segments of the population because of ongoing crises or because they are recovering from conflict, USAID's programs are geared towards eliminating the various causes of instability.

A woman proudly displays her village's new hand crank/solar powered radio, which enables them to listen to informative programs about health and democracy.



## Democracy and Governance

Democratic governance and improved governmental accountability have continued to expand throughout most countries in the region. USAID supports efforts in Africa to guarantee basic human rights and civil liberties, to expand participation in local and national political processes, and to encourage impartial and effective judicial systems. Countries that practice democracy and good governance are more likely to engage in market-led economic growth, attract investments, mitigate violent conflicts, and invest in development.

One of USAID's key aims in Africa is to strengthen democratic principles by promoting representative political processes and greater access to information, helping to strengthen institutions and the rule of law, and fostering the growth of civil society and greater respect for human rights. USAID programs in democracy and governance have also focused on the decentralization of governmental functions and improved accountability of both the public and private sectors. In addition,

## Radios, Radios, Radios Everywhere!

Throughout rural Mali, access to information largely depends on access to a radio. Radios, which are owned by over 64 percent of rural households, remain the only reliable way to receive information. Yet women often lack direct access and control over the family radio, and money for batteries is hard to come by. In April 2004, the USAID-financed Women in Governance or WING Project began distribution of more than 500 Freeplay radios in 16 communities in four Malian regions.

The Freeplay radios help women to overcome barriers to the information they want and need. Freeplay radios were created for use in rural areas and harsh conditions and are designed to function without conventional batteries. Seventy turns of a manual crank in 30 seconds will provide the listener with 30 minutes of playtime or the radio can be placed in direct sunlight to charge the permanent internal battery. When fully charged, the radio can play up to 24 hours.

Over 500 radios were distributed within the WING project zone, thereby touching the lives of thousands of women. The Freeplay radios are used for collective listening by groups of women and are not given to individuals for personal use. Each recipient women's group selected a Freeplay radio guardian and signed agreements to ensure that both the guardian and the group are fully aware of the role of the guardian and purpose of the listening group. With their new radios women will have better access to all-important information.

As a result, women are speaking out. Many ran in the May 2004 local elections, and the number of elected women doubled in the targeted communities, from 21 to 42 women. These women are accustomed to facing the challenges that life presents them so they will not be deterred easily from becoming active in public life and creating a better future for their communities.



USAID/MOZAMBIQUE

USAID is working with small businesses in Mozambique to improve the quality of both raw and processed cashews and attract investors.

many USAID programs integrate democratic principles of transparency, participation, and accountability throughout their development portfolios in other areas such as health, environment, and education.

Increased global awareness of corruption and its consequences has provided an opportunity for the U.S. Government to help its partners fight corruption. USAID is working with African public and private sectors to end corruption through its Anti-Corruption Initiative (ACI) to promote citizen awareness and increase transparency in key government processes. The ACI supports field-based programs that promote reforms to fight corruption in nine bilateral missions and three regional missions. For example, with

ACI funding, Madagascar launched the USAID good governance program, building on a program that has already achieved important successes including the development of a national anti-corruption strategy and the establishment of an anti-corruption agency.

As one example of USAID's rule of law work, in South Africa, USAID began training prosecutors in the skills to try commercial crime, which includes fraud as well as corruption. The Specialized Commercial Crime Court and Prosecuting Unit in Pretoria proved such a success that the South African Department of Justice opened a second court in Pretoria and additional courts in three other cities. These courts maintain conviction rates of over 90 percent and have

successfully prosecuted members of parliament, police officials, including a commissioner, and members of the legal community.

## Agriculture

Agriculture remains integral to sub-Saharan African economies, representing 30 to 40 percent of GDP and is the primary source of income for 65 percent of the region's people. While many countries have taken positive measures to stimulate higher productivity, particularly among small farmers who account for over 90 percent of production, per capita agricultural production remains at 1990 levels. Unlike the rest of the world, hunger is getting worse in Africa. The latest estimate by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization states that 204 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, over 30 percent of the total, do not have sufficient food to meet their daily needs. Improved performance of the agricultural sector is, therefore, critical to efforts to achieve food security and reduce poverty.

USAID's main program in the agriculture sector, the Presidential

A worker in Uganda hand pollinates sunflowers grown for export.



Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), is helping generate more agricultural income and employment, strengthening regional cooperation, and promoting policy and program changes in order to liberalize trade, improve market access, and foster innovation. By harnessing science, technology, and market forces to increase small-scale agricultural productivity, IEHA has already benefited nearly 3 million people. In 2004, this initiative provided \$67 million to support efforts with six country-specific and three regional programs to improve food security.

IEHA activities will support the new African-led Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), an agricultural framework that promotes the critical role of agricultural development as a means to eliminate hunger, reduce poverty and food insecurity, increase trade and promote wealth.

Through IEHA, an estimated 100 new agricultural technologies were made available to rural communities and producers in 20 countries in 2005. South Africa and Zambia are completing pest risk assessments that

## Uganda's Produce and Flower Exports Jump

Desirable fruit and vegetables, such as avocados, French beans, sweet potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, pineapples, passion fruit, bananas, and mangos grow in abundance year-round in Uganda. Although exporting of these goods began in the early 1990s, little quality produce survived the journey to encourage repeat customers in Europe. The problem stemmed from a lack of produce-handling infrastructure in Uganda. For example, exporters transported their produce in non-temperature controlled trucks. Although a cold-store facility was built in 1997 at the airport's cargo terminal, it remained unused due to management problems. Over time, foreign demand for Uganda's produce decreased because of its poor quality and low shelf life.

To solve these problems, Fresh Handling Ltd.—a new export management company—was established through the USAID-funded Investment in Developing

Export Agriculture (IDEA) program. The exporters themselves own and manage the company. Fresh Handling Ltd. has refurbished the facilities at the airport and purchased needed equipment (dollies, pallet insulating covers, and temperature monitoring equipment). The company has a good financial track record and the growers themselves have come to realize the benefits of working together and sharing information. The result has been a dramatic increase in the volume of produce and fresh cut flowers exported. Between 1995 and 2003, the value of produce, flower, vanilla, and cocoa exports increased from \$9.5 million to \$63.7 million. In 2003, Fresh Handling Ltd. handled 50 percent of Uganda's fresh produce exports and 95 percent of all flower exports. It has demonstrated that dedicated handling of perishable products by exporters working together can result in quality improvements, better prices for growers, and efficient export of fresh produce.

will make it easier to export specific crops to the United States. And improved storage has enabled farmers in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania to store fresh sweet potato roots for up to three months.

Most of USAID's missions in sub-Saharan Africa manage agricultural programs. For example, with USAID's help, 4,400 Tanzanian farmers have formed paprika-growing associations. Through training, production of this new export crop is expected to double, leading to around \$400,000 of new income to farmers.

USAID/Mali funded construction of a 4.7 kilometer-long canal near the town of Niono, which will enable the irrigation of 960 hectares of rice fields. The approximately 18,500 nearby residents will benefit from water available to farmers year round. Rice and vegetable yields are expected to at least double as a result.

Through USAID sponsorship, coffee experts trained Ethiopian producers to properly process and grade their coffee beans according to international standards. This will ensure the beans retain their quality

characteristics, and therefore bring a higher price on the market.

## Trade and Economic Growth

Sustainable economic growth is essential to reducing poverty. Economic growth in Africa has fluctuated over the past several years in response to changes in the global economy and local conditions. However, there is evidence that the adoption of sound economic policies and macroeconomic management, improved governance structures, and more effective public institutions are creating the conditions for more rapid economic growth. GDP in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to have grown by 4.5 percent in 2004, up from 3.5 percent in 2003 and is projected to accelerate in 2005. Per capita GDP also increased by an estimated 1.75 percent in 2004.

Despite these positive trends, Africa remains at the margins of the world economy, accounting for just 1.5 percent of world exports in 2003, down from 3.5 percent in 1970.

To realize their potential to become much more significant players in international trade, African countries must continue to liberalize economic policies and implement institutional reforms required of the changing economic environment. Trade is still hampered by systemic constraints such as high transaction costs, capacity limitations, poor infrastructure, and market distortions. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), launched in 2001, is stimulating trade opportunities for African businesses and creating jobs. AGOA is yielding ever more encouraging results; total two-way U.S. trade with sub-Saharan Africa rose 37 percent in calendar year 2004, to \$44.4 billion. AGOA imports totaled \$26.6 billion in 2004, an 88 percent increase over 2003.

Through the four regional "Hubs for Global Competitiveness" in Southern, East, and West Africa, USAID is helping African businesses and agricultural producers to take greater advantage of opportunities offered by AGOA and to develop direct links with U.S. importers and suppliers. With assistance from the Trade Hubs,

Pineapples like these are grown in Ghana, processed in South Africa, and consumed in Europe.



businesses in countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Ghana, and elsewhere are exporting their products directly to the United States. A fourth Trade Hub opened in Dakar, Senegal in November to provide additional support to the West Africa region.

Building on the success of the TRADE Initiative, in July the Bush Administration announced the five-year African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI) to further help African businesses take advantage of AGOA opportunities, forge business links that increase Africa's share of global trade, and improve policies and strengthen public services that support trade.

The African continent faces a wide range of information and communications challenges. Although Africa has seen dramatic growth in access to cell phones, only one in 130 people in the region has access to either telephones or the Internet. USAID is responding to these challenges through the Leland Initiative, which continues to support progress in telecommunications policy and regulation, and broadening access

## Pineapples and Mangos from West Africa to Europe Via South Africa

A leading fresh cut fruit processor in South Africa was having difficulty satisfying the specifications of a large British retail customer. It could not find quality mangos throughout the year and a certain pineapple variety in South Africa. By working with USAID's Southern Africa Trade Hub, it was able to solve its supply problems, and boost intra-regional trade at the same time.

To open new supply channels for these crops, the Southern Africa Trade Hub's competitiveness team began working with the West Africa Trade Hub to plan and support the fruit processor's trade mission to Ghana and Senegal. The Regional Trade Hubs in Gaborone, Botswana; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; and the newest in Dakar, Senegal, act as central points where African and U.S. Government agencies, donor and civil society organizations, and the private sector can find information and technical assistance on trade, investment, and business activities in the region, including training opportunities.

The two Hubs sought to access a new market—South Africa—for

pineapple and fresh mangos from Ghana and Senegal. The Hubs identified a number of highly competitive suppliers in each country, as well as pest experts and plant quarantine authorities.

Before the new trade links could be opened with South Africa, however, the teams had to address concerns of the South African National Department of Agriculture about quarantine action pests and intellectual property rights.

As a result of these efforts, Senegal sent its first shipment of mangos to South Africa in June 2005. Pineapples were shipped from Ghana in early September. The imports of these fruits from Ghana and Senegal will enable the South African firm to preserve its share in a rapidly expanding export market for fresh cut fruit mixes in Europe, which is worth several million dollars annually. The value of regional pineapple exports over the next three years between May and November is expected to be at least \$800,000 annually, and mango sales are projected to range from \$200,000 to \$365,000 per year.



C. WEAVER/WWF

Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism staff and World Wide Fund for Nature researchers track a white rhino in the Torra Conservancy.

## Impoverished Namibian Community Gains Hope through Tourism

After the closure of the tin mines in the early 1990s, the Namibian community of Uis and surrounding area experienced large-scale job losses and families were split up when ex-miners went to seek work hundreds of kilometers away. The community was desperate to create jobs and businesses locally to enable regeneration of the small town and surrounding settlements.

USAID has provided support to this impoverished community on the edge of the Namib Desert, helping residents build new lives. The community formed and registered a protected natural area called a conservancy to manage wildlife in the surrounding desert and to gain benefits from local tourism. USAID assisted the conservancy to develop tourism and wildlife management plans, generate jobs and income from tourism, and establish a tourism information center that also provides space for other local businesses.

Within the last five years, Tsiseb Conservancy established a tourism lodge and campsite and a hunting enterprise. These activities contribute about \$21,000 a year towards community development and employ 16 local people. A number of ex-miners have found employment as mountain guides taking visitors to see ancient rock art and on hiking trips to the nearby Brandberg Mountain, the highest in Namibia. As a result of the increased income from tourists who come to see wildlife, including desert-dwelling elephants, the conservancy members are proactive in managing the game in their area. The conservancy has negotiated deals with other local tourism operators and is set to increase its income considerably. Today, with a well-organized management committee representing different sectors of the community, Tsiseb Conservancy is one of the leading drivers of development and economic growth in the area.

to advanced information technology including the Internet. The number of Africans benefiting from Leland Initiative interventions continues to climb. More than 2.5 million Africans in 25 countries are now estimated to be using the Internet to sell goods, acquire an education, improve their health, conserve their environment, and protect their democratic rights.

The Leland Initiative also piloted the Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI), a public-private partnership that deploys expert volunteers from the U.S. technology industry and specialists from the U.S. Departments of Commerce and State to assist small- and mid-size enterprises in Senegal. Through DFI, a groundbreaking Internet access center that opened in Dakar's central market is helping small business owners to pay bills, find new suppliers, negotiate prices, and upgrade business skills.

## Environment

Africa is a continent of great natural riches, unmatched biodiversity, and vast unspoiled landscapes. Prudent management and protection of these assets can contribute to sustainable

economic growth as well as to worldwide efforts to improve the global environment and maintain biodiversity. Yet the region's environment is under dire threat from habitat loss and population growth. Serious efforts must be taken immediately to preserve, protect, and improve Africa's natural heritage.

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) supports efforts to address climate change and protect the world's second largest rainforest, which spans six Central African countries. The 29 international governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector organizations taking part in the CBFP provide support for a network of parks and protected areas, well-managed forestry concessions, and improved natural resource governance, and promote economic opportunities for communities that depend on the forest and wildlife resources of the region. The Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) is the centerpiece of USAID's response to the goals of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. CARPE is a 20-year effort that began in 1995 and is designed to support conservation and

sustainable management of natural resources in the tropical forests of central Africa.

USAID's programs that focus on linking better management of natural resources with improved livelihoods and strengthened environmental governance are now demonstrating positive results in over a dozen countries. For example, strengthening the skills of community-based organizations in Kenya has led to 770,000 hectares being put under improved management, \$652,000 in revenues from nature-based enterprises, and creation of 1,200 new jobs.

USAID/Madagascar is promoting alternatives to traditional slash and burn farming practices. Approximately 20,000 farmers are now using the new techniques, resulting in average income increases of 31 percent and a rate of forest loss that is one-third to one-half of what it was before.

In Senegal, communities are learning how to run effective forest monitoring systems to regulate resource use. As a result, there are more wild

fruit and livestock feed to harvest. Communities now are working toward the same goal—to ensure that the area's natural resources are managed wisely.

## Education

Advances in education are critical to Africa's economic, social, and political development. While access to formal education has improved, 39 percent of boys and 43 percent of girls are still not enrolled in primary school. Just 20 percent of all children complete primary school. HIV/AIDS continues to decimate the ranks of qualified teachers.

Systemic education reform is critical if Africa's children are to compete successfully in today's world. USAID programs focus on educational policy and systems development, decentralized decision making and greater parental and community involvement.

Much of USAID's work in education is achieved through President Bush's Africa Education Initiative (AEI). Through AEI, nearly 220,000 new and current teachers have been



HAKOBSUSAID GHANA

Susan Senchery, headmistress of Kentikrono Primary, poses with some of her students.

## Ghanaian Primary School Becomes a Model

Kentikrono is a poor urban community in Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana. This sprawling community's single public school, Kentikrono Metropolitan Authority Primary, enrolled only 215 pupils in 1999. Students were not proficient in English, and teachers neither prepared detailed lesson plans nor used teaching and learning materials. Community-teacher relations were so poor that parents openly called the school "lazy teachers' school."

In 1999, USAID became involved with a program designed to provide the building blocks for children to receive quality basic education. Teachers, the school management committee, and executive members of the parent teacher association were trained in education approaches designed to help improve student learning and increase community support for the school's activities. The teachers upgraded their skills in lesson preparation, use of teaching and learning materials, and effective classroom management. To bolster its support role, the school management committee learned how to prepare action plans and

keep financial accounts. It also organized meetings with the entire community to discuss the need to visit the school regularly, participate in school activities, and provide the basic school materials and encouragement for its children.

Four years later, with skills learned through USAID's program, Kentikrono Primary placed first in English and second in math in a test given to 20 primary schools in Kumasi. Students are now enthusiastic about expressing themselves in English in school and at home. Some parents have even withdrawn their children from nearby schools and enrolled them in Kentikrono, increasing its enrollment from 215 in 1999 to 495 in 2004. Nine out of 10 parents attend meetings of the parent teacher association, and they regularly visit the school to discuss their children's performance and attendance. Kentikrono's improvements are echoing throughout the area: more than 100 teachers from other local schools have visited Kentikrono to learn its methods of lesson planning, school and class management, and community relations.

trained and over 1.8 million textbooks have been distributed to primary school students in six countries. AEI supports girls' education by targeting scholarships and other assistance for girls, increasing their access to schools, and upgrading the quality of the education they receive. More than 85,000 girls from 38 countries have received scholarships. For girls like Aissata Ba of Senegal, now studying computer science at Gaston Berger University in Saint Louis, Senegal, a scholarship to attend secondary school allowed her to pursue her dreams. AEI will receive an additional \$400 million from 2007 to 2010 for the immediate learning needs of African children. Throughout its duration, AEI will provide 550,000 scholarships, train 920,000 teachers and administrators, and produce and distribute 15 million textbooks.

USAID's program in Djibouti produced a four-minute video encouraging parents to send their daughters to school that was broadcast on national television. Schools in conflict-torn Sierra Leone are being rebuilt, helping to persuade families to return to the homes they fled during the war. USAID/Mali is

Community health volunteer in Dialocoto village, Ma Badio (right), sells treated mosquito nets to neighbors like Bintou Cisse at a subsidized cost.



encouraging groups of two to five schools to work together so that public, community, and madrasa schools can learn from each other. In partnership with parent-teacher associations, USAID/Mali is also developing teachers' skills and relevant curricula in 800 primary schools, thereby improving education quality for over 250,000 students.

## Health and Family Planning

Health conditions in sub-Saharan Africa remain the poorest in the world. Malaria claims over 2.3 million African lives a year, mostly of young children, and over 90 percent of the world's 600 million yearly malaria cases occur in Africa. With 350 cases per 100,000 people, Africa has the highest rate of incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in the world, fueled by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. At 1,000 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, and 45 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, the region has the highest maternal and neo-natal mortality rates in the world.

USAID supports a wide range of health activities, from preventing

## Trained Volunteers Detect and Treat Malaria, Leading to Improved Health

The annual rainy season in rural Senegal brings a blessing—and a curse. Every drop is precious to the country's farmers, but rains also form breeding pools for malaria-laden mosquitoes. Thousands of Senegalese die every year from the disease, especially young children and pregnant mothers. In the immense, sparsely-populated collectivity of Dialocoto in southeastern Senegal, malaria hits hard. Dialocoto has only one professional health worker, a nurse, to serve the health care needs of 14,000 residents spread among 50 villages in an area larger than the state of Delaware.

In June 2002, Dialocoto's rural council, community organizations, health committees, and nurse proposed a plan to USAID's decentralization and local governance program to train community health workers to promote the use of mosquito nets in Dialocoto's villages, and to detect and treat cases of malaria before residents became seriously ill.

With USAID funds, the community paid for technical and management

training activities, educational brochures on malaria, mosquito nets, disinfectants, and medicines. Given the positive results of the first two campaigns, USAID granted Dialocoto more funding in 2004 to extend activities to its remaining 25 villages.

By identifying and treating minor cases of malaria, trained village health workers helped reduce the number of patients who needed to be seen by the nurse from 2,082 in 2001 to 1,234 in 2002. According to Dialocoto's nurse, Ibrahima Seck, the number of serious cases of malaria also dropped sharply.

"Malaria and the long distances between our village and doctors' services are the roots of the difficulties of pregnant women in Taboto," said Awa Mané, housewife and mother from Taboto Village. "But thanks to the health worker placed in the village, there are fewer evacuations of women to Dialocoto and Tambacounda now. We don't feel the absence of the doctor as much because we have advice on health matters and medicine."

infectious disease, to reducing child mortality, to promoting reproductive health. By training neighborhood health committees, USAID has helped communities in Zambia control the number of cases of malaria and cholera. In the face of a 40 percent tariff on imported bednets, USAID/Nigeria is encouraging the development of local production capacity. Now more than 3 million nets are produced each year.

An additional \$1.2 billion in funding for malaria prevention and treatment over the next five years announced by President Bush will eventually benefit more than 175 million people in 15 or more African countries. The goal is to reduce malaria deaths in these countries by 50 percent.

USAID/Mozambique is teaching volunteer model families to lead comprehensive community health discussions, encourage immunizations, and do cooking and nutrition demonstrations. In a matter of months after starting the program, the number of underweight children dropped by 17 percent. Meanwhile, the percentage of children fully

immunized increased from 25 percent in 2002 to 40 percent in 2004.

USAID helped Senegal's Ministry of Health develop a training program for community healthcare workers in the town of Kebemer to provide essential care for newborns. Thanks to a related mass media campaign, 74 percent of women are choosing to give birth in clinics, compared to 53 percent before the training program, where they have access to life-saving resuscitation equipment, if necessary.

USAID/Mali helped Muslim religious leaders develop an advocacy tool promoting birth spacing and family planning. These influential leaders are now advocating birth spacing as a Muslim family's duty to ensure better quality of life.

Organizations sponsored by USAID/Tanzania are encouraging a growing number of mothers to hold initiation ceremonies without female genital cutting for their daughters. Respected elder women still teach the girls the traditions, practices, and responsibilities of being women, but without the painful and dangerous tradition of cutting, which makes

girls like 14-year-old Foibe feel very lucky. "I've been spared all the pain that other girls have gone through," she explains. "I've heard the stories associated with cutting. I'm really happy I don't have to go through it."

## HIV/AIDS

Sub-Saharan Africa bears the brunt of the world's AIDS epidemic. More than 13 million men, women, and children have died of AIDS, and 25-28 million are now living with the virus. Over 80 percent are in their productive years and two thirds are female. The number of AIDS orphans is expected to rise from 11 million to 20 million by 2010. Prevalence rates remain high in all of Southern Africa, reaching 25 percent in Zimbabwe and almost 40 percent in Swaziland and Botswana. However, the experience of Uganda, where infection rates have decreased by 50 percent from 1997 to 2001, and promising results in Zambia and elsewhere are hopeful signs that prevention and treatment measures are beginning to slow the spread of the disease.

HIV/AIDS is a major health priority for USAID. Through the President's

These youth are among some 21,000 boys and girls who play on 700 soccer teams in the Iringa region of southern Tanzania.



Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs run by U.S. Government agencies in Africa, including USAID, are expanding rapidly. The Emergency Plan supports anti-retroviral therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS, expanded access to counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, community-based services for orphans and vulnerable children, and a comprehensive “ABC” approach—abstinence, being faithful, and correct and consistent condom use. The Emergency Plan is on-target to support treatment for 2 million people living with HIV/AIDS, prevention of 7 million new HIV infections, and care for 10 million people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS (including orphans and vulnerable children) by 2008.

USAID and the Emergency Plan emphasize the use of voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services. In Zimbabwe, for instance, nearly 155,000 clients received VCT in 2004, up from 95,000 the previous year. In a USAID-targeted province in Rwanda, 78 percent of the partners of pregnant women agreed to be

## Sports Help Prevent HIV by Deterring Youth from Risky Behaviors

Village leaders in the Iringa region of Tanzania have devised a simple and inexpensive solution to the perennial challenge of providing wholesome activities for youth: keeping their feet busy.

With support from the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through USAID, 21,000 youth have become active on football teams established in all seven Iringa districts, thus diverting their attention from sexual activity, drug use, and other risky behavior.

Coaches and others trained as peer educators provide players with information on HIV prevention and the dangers of alcohol and drugs, using a recently revised curriculum. The Iringa Development of Youth Disabled and Children Care (IDYDC) conducted training sessions on the new curriculum for 108 leaders, who then trained peer educators. The program, run by Family Health International’s YouthNet and coordinated by IDYDC, grew from about 400 to 700 teams in six months. Eighty-three of those teams are girls-only.

The complete educational module, which includes informational

booklets for both primary- and secondary-school children, and a training guide for peer educators, is the first of its kind to reach the communities and has been warmly received by both children and adults.

According to IDYDC director Philostheous Njuyuwi, this program has compelling advantages over HIV/AIDS campaigns that focus on adults. “Sports reach a lot of youth and can be developed in most rural areas with much less cost.”

Mario Mtitu, health educator and coach of the Ruaha Secondary School team, recognizes the program’s positive impact. Many of the girls in the area had been sexually active as young as 14, but when they “participate in the games, they are more tired, busy, and less active sexually,” he says.

The girls agree. Neema Sanga, who at 19 is already the mother of a 2-month-old son, plays for the Upendo Vocational Educational School team. Before joining the team, Neema engaged in high-risk behavior. She now says, “I like playing football more.” Neema has tested negative for HIV. Thanks to football, she is much more likely to stay that way.



A Chiefs and Traditional Leaders Conference attracted 350 people from every corner of Sudan.

## Talking to People about Peace

A crucial part of the transition from war to peace is the initiation of democratic discussion among all Sudanese people. USAID has worked with key members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) since June 2004 to disseminate information on the preliminary peace agreement in an effort to create an inclusive and participatory government and citizenry. The effort has reached more than 600,000 people.

The beginning of the program was dominated by large affairs, speeches—and few opportunities for interactive dialogue. As time went on, USAID and SPLM members began to set up smaller meetings with community leaders and intellectuals to spur more intense, cooperative discussion. The program concluded with a Chiefs and Traditional Leaders Conference, which welcomed 350 kings, chiefs and traditional leaders from every corner of Sudan.

The two-week conference enabled participants to share information

on the peace agreement, and helped build ownership and unity among the different groups. Talks covered a wide range of issues, including inter-tribal conflict, arms control, demining, the role of traditional leaders, the rule of law, participatory democracy and development, and the SPLM's political organization and future. Every discussion was translated into English, Arabic, Nuer, and Dinka, and every elder was given a chance to speak.

The traditional leaders unanimously endorsed the protocols of the peace agreement and called the conference a landmark for the people of southern Sudan. They also emphasized the need to continue a dialogue that would create an enabling environment of forgiveness, reconciliation and unity. In return, the SPLM committed itself to holding an annual conference with the traditional leaders and conducting more interactive meetings with other key constituencies, such as women, youth, and soldiers.

tested for HIV while the women were getting prenatal exams.

USAID/Mozambique is working with HIV-positive expectant mothers in some areas to teach them about infant nutrition, the constraints and stigma of living with HIV, and the importance of having partners tested. It also provides Nevirapine, a drug that can reduce the chance of transmission of HIV between mother and baby. This has allowed 5,000 new mothers to learn that their babies have not inherited the virus.

## Conflict Prevention and Humanitarian Response

Violent conflict and political and economic instability in Africa are often caused by poor governance, weak institutions, power imbalances, and resource and income inequities. Recent African achievements in conflict mitigation and management include the end of several long-running conflicts that have destroyed countries and destabilized sub-regions of the continent. Peace in Liberia is holding, a comprehensive peace

Two girls in the Casamance region of Senegal, an area that is recovering from years of civil war with USAID's help.



agreement ending the conflict in southern Sudan was signed in January 2005, and Sierra Leone and Angola continue their transition to peace and stability after years of protracted conflict. Unfortunately, conflicts remain unsettled in the Darfur region of Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and northern Uganda, and instability persists in the Great Lakes region, although some progress is being achieved.

USAID provides support to governments and organizations in all stages of conflict and crisis. In recent years, USAID's work has shifted from a broad emphasis on humanitarian emergencies to a more direct focus on conflict management and mitigation. The Agency's programs in Africa support peace processes, improve early warning and response mechanisms, address war-to-peace transitional issues, and improve community-based reconciliation efforts. In addition, USAID helps countries to analyze and address the causes of violence.

In addition to contributing to the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of conflict, USAID assistance also supports reconciliation and community reintegration

after conflict. The Africa Conflict and Peace Building Fund (ACPF) supports activities such as mediation, community-based reconciliation, peace media, reintegration, and psychosocial counseling. Programs supported by the ACPF address the causes and consequences of conflict such as youth unemployment, ethnically based economic competition, and inequitable control over natural resources.

USAID also supports activities that protect and conserve Africa's natural resources, which have become a source of conflict in a number of resource-rich countries. In cross-border areas of East and Southern Africa USAID has developed innovative conflict mitigation activities focusing on land, water, and forests. It has also supported the Kimberley Process to control trade in rough diamonds by helping local governments in diamond-producing

areas of Sierra Leone to improve transparency and capacity to stem the flow of diamonds that fueled conflict in the past.

The tragedy in Darfur and instability in Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire are reminders, nonetheless, that peace can be fragile.

USAID's humanitarian assistance programs have been vital to international efforts to mitigate the effects of several natural and man-made disasters, including those in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia. At the end of 2004, Africa was home to over 13 million of the world's 25 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), and Sudan alone has as many as 5 million IDPs. USAID seeks to integrate humanitarian, development, and protection initiatives on behalf of those affected by natural disaster and violent conflict. The United States provided almost \$1.4 billion



K. BURNS/USAID UGANDA

A Ugandan worker prepares a specialty brick for firing.

On the cover: USAID is working to ensure that all of Africa's children, including these in Senegal, have a promising future.

in humanitarian assistance to 32 African emergencies during fiscal year 2005. In June, President Bush announced that an additional \$674 million would be used to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Africa. Of this, \$414 million was for immediate help to avert famine in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Another important concern for the U.S. posed by conflict in Africa is the vulnerability of unstable regions to terrorist exploitation. Strengthening Africa's capacity to fight terrorism, therefore, is an important foreign policy priority for the United States. USAID works with Islamic communities, schools (madrasas), and women's groups to encourage ethnic and religious tolerance, and peace programs such as Northern Uganda's Community Resilience and Dialogue activity contribute to counter-terrorism efforts.

## Looking Ahead...

Helping the people of sub-Saharan Africa attain greater peace and prosperity and addressing the continent's many development challenges will require an extraordinary and sustained effort on the part of African governments, the private sector, civil society, and the international community. USAID will work with its many partners at the local, regional, and international levels, build stronger public-private partnerships to leverage greater resources where they are most needed, and support the goals of African leadership including the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

USAID's programs to promote democracy, economic growth, improve governance, mitigate conflict, improve education, preserve the diversity of the continent's resources, and improve health will continue to

address the most critical problems facing the continent and represent an investment in Africa's future. Through a strategic use of funding, USAID missions in Africa will continue to support a broad range of programs that address the most pressing of the region's development needs. By using a targeted approach that distinguishes between transformational development countries and fragile countries, USAID assistance will be more effective and tailored to the capacities and commitment of each country.

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